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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 13 November 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of a joint communiqué of the Presidents of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania, adopted at Palanga, Lithuania, on 10 November 1997 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 40, 72 (b) and 81.

(Signed)

Trivimi VELLISTE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
of Estonia to
the United Nations

(Signed)

Janis PRIEDKALNS
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
of Latvia to
the United Nations

(Signed)

Oskaras JUSYS
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
of Lithuania to
the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint communiqué issued at Palanga, Lithuania, on 10 November 1997 by the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

The Presidents of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania met at Palanga, Lithuania, on 10 November 1997 and discussed a number of mutually important issues, paying special attention to integration into the European Union, the finalization and forthcoming signing of the Charter of Partnership among the United States of America, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, relations with the Russian Federation and trilateral Baltic cooperation.

The Presidents discussed the integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the European Union and welcomed the European Commission's recommendation to start accession negotiations with Estonia. They confirmed the importance of the full-fledged participation of the Baltic States on an equal footing in the process of enlargement of the Union and expressed their conviction as to their countries' readiness to start accession negotiations in early 1998.

At the meeting the Presidents discussed and welcomed the finalization of the Charter of Partnership among the United States of America, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. They recognized that the Charter was of great importance to the dynamic development of their bilateral relations with the United States and to the advancement of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania towards their full integration into European and transatlantic political, economic, security and defence institutions.

The Presidents stated that the security policy of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was based on the understanding that European security was indivisible and that security and stability would be strengthened by the integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania welcomed the will of President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation further to expand good-neighbourly relations and mutually beneficial practical cooperation in the broadest range of issues of mutual interest, as well as to continue political dialogue, both bilaterally and within the framework of existing institutions.

The Presidents welcomed the signing of the border delimitation agreement between Lithuania and the Russian Federation and noted that Estonia and Latvia were ready to sign similar agreements.

The Presidents considered the proposal of the Russian Federation to provide unilateral security guarantees to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Presidents reiterated the shared position that unilateral security guarantees did not correspond to the spirit of the new Europe and that such unilateral guarantees, as well as regional security pacts, had never been on the agenda of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The Presidents discussed various aspects of trilateral Baltic cooperation and noted with satisfaction that pragmatic, result-oriented and constructive development was continuing. They emphasized the importance of the promotion of economic cooperation with the ultimate goal of creating an area of free movement of goods, services, capital and people. In this connection the Presidents welcomed the initialling of the agreement on the abolition of non-tariff barriers in joint trade and encouraged the relevant authorities to conclude agreements on common transit procedures and free trade in services.

The Presidents underlined that the Via Baltica project was of common priority interest and called on the Governments to speed up the implementation of that infrastructure project, which was important to the whole region and to the Baltic States' European integration and to take immediate steps to improve the border crossings between the Baltic States.

The Presidents stressed the significance and need to strengthen further the cooperation in the area of domestic and judicial affairs, which is one of the cornerstones of membership in the European Union.

Lennart MERI President, Republic of Estonia	Guntis ULMANIS President, Republic of Latvia	Algirdas BRAZAUSKAS President, Republic of Lithuania

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